LOWER SAVANNAH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ 2:00 PM
Brandt Building
398 Barnwell Rd.
Allendale, SC 29810

LSWDB Members in attendance:	Dr. Forest Mahan, Gary Jones, Tommy Boyleston, Tameka Johnson, Demeterius Smith, Kim Williams-Griffith, Kristie Hutson, Dr. Dorian Newton, Jeanette Murray, Pat Black Jr., Kenisha Grimes, Audrey Grimball, Will Reynolds
LSWDB Members excused:	Darainey Hudson, Nancy Foster, , Dr. Renee Ritter, Tiiu Goode
LSCOG/WD Staff in attendance:	André Anderson, Wendy Mahuron, Sally Sharpe, Nelson Nwachukwu, Sydney Goff, Shelby Broomfield, Jerome Wallace, Nora Sanders
Guests/Visitors:	Dennis Hall (Eckerd Connects), Charlie Furtick (Eckerd Connects), and Renee Alexander (Eckerd)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tommy Boyleston called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Boyleston welcomed all attendees and guests.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Anderson conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Tommy Boyleston asked the Workforce Board for a motion to approve the Agenda. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Gary Jones and seconded Ms. Jeanette Murray. The meeting agenda was approved without additions/corrections.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 07, 2023

Tommy Boyleston asked the Workforce Board for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 7, 2023. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pat Black and seconded Mr. Demetrius Smith. The meeting minutes were approved with no corrections needed.

SETA CONFERENCE (MEMPHIS, TN) – MARCH 12, 2023

André Anderson informed the Board on a recent trip taken to the Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) Conference held in Memphis TN. Various attendees spoke on their experience at the conference and the valuable concepts and board supporting information gained from attendance/participation. The attendees were as follows: Pat Black Jr., Curtis Randolph, Charlie Furtick and André Anderson. All thanked the LSCOG/LSWDB for the opportunity to represent the region in Memphis.

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LOCAL WORKFORCE AREA SUBSEQUENT DESIGNATION PETITION

André Anderson explained the Local Workforce Area Subsequent Designation Petition to the Board. In his explanation he highlighted that the petition was a requirement of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) whereas each local Workforce Area is required to submit this document stating it wishes to become or remain a local workforce region, in the state of South Carolina and to the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). This petition must be brought before the Workforce Board for their awareness and approval. Additionally, it must be published for a public comment period, demonstrate satisfactory performance for the 2 program years prior and be signed by the Chief Elected officials (County Council Chairpersons) within the Workforce region.

Mr. Boyleston asked the board members for a motion on the Designation Petition. An approval motion was provided by Dr. Dorian Newton and seconded by Kenisha Grimes. Mr. Boyleston then asked was there any discussion to be had on the measure. Hearing none, he asked for a vote on the measure. The measure was unanimously approved.

ALTERATION OF WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING TIME

André Anderson put forth to the board a modification of the Boards meeting time. The Workforce Board meeting start time is 2pm on the 1st Tuesday of every other month. Mr. Anderson asked the board if moving the time back one hour to 1pm would be acceptable. He further explained that this would make the meeting more of a lunch time meeting and might help to increase attendance and participation among board members. With this move, lunch would be served at 12:30pm and the meetings would commence at 1pm. Tommy Boyleston asked was there a motion on the question of moving the start time of the board meeting. Gary Jones made a motion to approve the change to the start time of the meeting and Kristie Hutson seconded that motion. The WD Board meeting time change was approved unanimously.

SPECIALIZED REPORTS FOR BOARD

Were provided by:

- Financial Overview - Sydney Goff – WIOA Finance Coordinator
- Center Reports - Charlie Furtick – SC Works Center Operator
- Business Services - Wendy Mahuron – Business Services Manager

ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Anderson provided updates to the board on several topics. They were as follows:

- He informed the Board that the Local and Regional Plans the Board had approved at the December 2022 meeting had been Conditionally approved by SCDEW
- The Local Area had received it's preliminary Annual Monitoring report from SCDEW and the local area had one issue that was in the process of being address. Mr. Anderson went on to say that the report reflected very well on the region, staff/subrecipients and the board as a whole
- Mr. Anderson Introduced Ms. Shelby Broomfield as the new Regional Training Coordinator. He stated that Ms. Broomfield will be the principal person working on a collaborative grant between the LowCountry and Lower Savannah Workforce regions, focusing on Workforce Development outcomes in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton Hampton and Jasper Counties. Ms. Broomfield introduced herself and stated she was glad to be a member of the LSCOG team and looked forward to being a resource for the two regions.
- Mr. Anderson informed the board that through staff and workforce partners effort, the region had increased Apprenticeships across the region with collaborations between SRNS, Aiken Technical College and Denmark Technical College. He also informed the Board that future apprenticeships were slated for Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College at the start of the new program year (after July 1, 2023)

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- Mr. Anderson and Ms. Sally Sharpe provided a Power-Up Your Future update to the Board highlighting the successful Youth employment events held in the month of March 2023 at South Carolina State University (March 14th) and the University of South Carolina – Aiken (March 16th). The events brought 1100+ students from the nine (9) public K-12 school districts that make up the Lower Savannah region and introduced them to employers as well as post-secondary institutions to help them chart a successful path forward.
- Mr. Anderson informed the board on the Better Internet Survey and encouraged the Board and meeting attendees to take just a few moments to fill out the survey that has the potential to improve internet connectivity across our region and ultimately could have a positive impact on workforce development, K-12 student access, Tele/Virtual medicine, and so on. A separate email (with an accessible link) was forwarded to all board members for the purpose of filling out the survey.
- The Board was informed that they would be receiving a questionnaire to help staff identify areas where Board Members would like to receive training to enhance their skillsets and workforce understanding on the Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board. Additionally, they were informed that this process was in its preliminary stage and more information would be forthcoming on how best to address continuous improvement and enhanced board development.
- Mr. Anderson provided the Board with a copy of the Lower Savannah Mobile Unit Outreach Calendar for the month of May 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Anderson for

Gary Jones
Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board SECRETARY

NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PRIOR TO THE MEETING. NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BULLETIN BOARD AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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